

AIRTH PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting

Held on Wednesday 21 January 2015 at 7pm in Airth Primary School

Present :- Robert (Bob) Smith Domini Grant Aileen Amos Jon Anslow
Willie Watson

Also Present :- Pauline Rodger Stephen Sloper Councillor Craig Martin

Apologies :- Ginny Sutherland Stephen Bird

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

These were approved as a correct record, approved by Aileen and seconded by Domini.

Matters Arising from Last Meeting

With regard to the overgrown hedge at Elphinstone Crescent we received an email from C Martin advising that photos have been taken and the hedge inspected. Bob thinks it has now been cut.

The Council car park is not free despite what was reported at the last meeting. Proposals are being considered.

We have a bottle of vodka for the janitor to thank him for opening the school for us. Aileen will give it to him tomorrow.

Aileen contacted Brian re the Community Council website regarding changing the Sec name and taking Ann Ramsey off as a Community Councillor. She also asked Robert again for his letter of resignation.

Robert suggested Bob Sloane or Ron Martin could become members of the Community Council representing Powfoulis Assoc.

Domini still to find out if there is a Castle Drive Assoc. to enable her and Jim to discuss the possibility of another place to cross the road after Falkirk Council said there was no need for a pelican crossing.

Police Report

No police attended so no report.

Around the Parish Report

Forth Ports have given us tide tables. Bob will note the high ones and it was suggested that we could put these up on the noticeboard. There are no flood warnings at present.

Jon has not spoken to Mandy Brown yet about the noticeboard for South Alloa.

Dunmore – The Association noticeboard had to be replaced. Willie will varnish it when the weather is suitable.

The notice board at Dunmore which has been replaced cost £1,200.

Willie stated D.V.A. had complained that the minutes of APCC had not been posted on the Council website. Willie said he had explained it was not the fault of APCC. It was explained once again that this was due to the lack of staff at Falkirk Council. Pauline has since re sent the previous Minutes to Brian Pirie as he has misplaced the ones previously sent.

The original cost for the sensory garden was thought to be in the region of £43,000. The quote received for the sensory garden was £83,000 so it's too expensive. The Association have gone back to the gardening company to see if the quote can be reduced.

£280 was raised for the band that played in Dunmore at Christmas. This was a good amount given that the turnout was poor because of the terrible weather.

Aileen advised that the No Through Road signs are now up in Dunmore.

Robert and Domini met with Malcolm Wilson. We now have a Community Resilience Leaflet. It was passed round. The group comprises Aileen, Jon, Ronnie Martin, Bob and Domini. Robert will take the lead. All reference to the Community Council has been taken out and some small revisions made.

The Resilience Plan is still to be finalised. It was agreed it should be emailed to the group and suggestions can be fed back to Robert. A meeting will be organised. We need to wait till April to take the grant forward for the engineer's survey. Robert noted that the banks are still slipping. He will contact Kate Kane re funding possibilities.

Community Council Forum Update – Domini attended it this week. Not a great turnout. They discussed the Code of Conduct Resolution document. It was agreed that where there is an issue with a Community Councillor, complaints can be made to Domini or Brian Pirie at the Council. It could then go to a panel process. The panel would consist of 4 handpicked Community Council members. The person who has been complained about can appeal. Another panel is going to be appointed to finalise the document. Domini asked for our views. Councillors are bound by a code of conduct to act reasonably but the difficulty is in enforcing sanctions. They need a process. Domini asked that everybody read the Review for the Code of Conduct and get back to her with comments. She will send it out.

The Council want us to have a Facebook presence and a web site with links to Minutes etc. The Council are going to provide some training. Aileen said that Callum is going to help us build a site. Facebook is good for polls etc. Training on chair management is also going to be provided by the Council.

It has been noted that the Minutes are not being put on the web site by the Council although they are sent in timeously.

12 Feb 9.30am – There is an open public meeting for Council budget if anyone wants to attend.

Domini read out a letter and petition from Hamish Grant asking for a skate park. The nearest one is at Kincardine. Craig Martin said it is very expensive to build a skate park. There is a temporary one, which once it is repaired, might be put in Airth on the hard standing in the park but Health and Safety are saying that someone has to be there all the time. If it is used well then we may be able to go forward and get funding from other sources for a permanent one. Craig will take the petition. There will need to be a feasibility study undertaken. Craig will check on the temporary one to see if it will be ready for the summer.

Correspondence

Falkirk Community Health Partnership – There is a meeting Tues 3 Feb 6.30pm at Falkirk Council. Aileen and Domini might go to that.

Holocaust Memorial - Tues 27 January 10am-1pm for Councillors and Community Councillors and afterwards for the public. Bob will register to go.

Letter advising that the police control room is moving from Stirling to Edinburgh from 27 January.

Letter from Brian Pirie – invitation to a meeting re social networking on Fri 30 Jan at Napier University.

Email from Maria – invitation to a meeting re fracking on Wed 28 Jan at Grangemouth Town Hall. Aileen, Ginny, Ian and Bob will go. We have been invited as Community Councillors to bring information back to the Community Council.

Craig says that INEOS are arranging an evening and will get in touch with us with dates. They will explain licences etc. at this meeting.

Given the demise of Grangemouth Community Council, Craig suggested that Brian Pirie may be able to arrange that residents from Bothkennar/Skinflats can join with us and even become community councillors as they are currently unrepresented. Domini will contact Brian to suggest.

The Skinflats newsletter is now available. Domini has a copy if anyone wants to read it.

Bob noted that some student types had been camping up at Dunmore Woods. They have moved on but you wouldn't know they were there as they cleared up after themselves. It is rumoured that they might be looking for land to set up a base camp for anti fracking protestors.

Planning Issues

There is a planning application for the erection of a new house at Haughs of Airth, behind the Pine n Oak. Henry Dunsmore is the applicant. Robert declared an interest and is therefore not going to take anything to do with it. Plans were passed round. It is a farm house. We agreed that the access road needs to be visible and the Council needs to be sure that there is no increased risk of flooding. We will make representations to this effect.

There is also a planning application for property at Lochs of Airth. It is planning for a 2 story extension. We have no concerns.

Treasurer's Report

We received £500 from Falkirk Council for a computer. £507 was spent on a computer and software. This is currently at Aileen's house.

There is £3984.36 in the Christmas Lights account.

Total cost of lights for last year will come in at £1788.17 leaving £2196.19.

Craig suggested that we should discuss extending lights to other areas of the Parish as this has been raised with him. The suggestion was noted.

Cenotaph Report

£500 was donated towards a bench although we do not know who received the money or much more about it.

Aileen has been emailing Arthur Berg to keep us right with receipts and paperwork. Aileen will email Craig and Craig will chase Arthur Berg for us.

Domini suggested we invite the people involved to our meeting. Perhaps it could be suggested that they ask for the opinion of the villagers on the benches. We don't know who else is involved. If it's a community project perhaps the opinion of the community should have been sought before the flag poles etc were erected. Robert signed the document for the grant and there were onerous conditions attached and he asked for additional information but he didn't get this. We need to see paperwork. VAT possibly needs to be reclaimed.

A concern was raised about whether the bench should go at the cenotaph. It might encourage youths to hang about but then again it would be useful for the day of remembrance for older people but then that's just one day per year. Maybe the bench could go at the cemetery instead?

Domini will arrange a meeting with the Campbells and/or anybody else who is involved to discuss.

Broadband

Craig responded on this. He has been advised by Digital Scotland that fibre broadband is due in Airth in Jan – June 2016. The Digital Scotland web site is quite useful. If we are

already on the programme then maybe there is no point taking action to bring it forward. The web site says 2017? That might be referring to the update to the exchange. We should write to Digital Scotland for more details. Jon will help Domini write the letter.

A.O.C.B.

Mr Sloper raised the issue of the flooding at Letham Terrace. Over the Christmas period the pumping station at Letham flooded. Craig advised that the Council team are going to get involved. The problem is that the culvert is quite small. At high tide the Pow Burn overflowed. Craig advised that the flooding people are going to do a clean up which will help clear the blockages but it won't solve the problem. There are 3 old septic tanks. The Council are thinking of using these as a buffer which means the water will run down to the culvert at a slower rate. The problem is that the discharge into the Pow Burn is backed up. Mr Sloper advised that because they are filling up Waterslap 2 it is causing more problems as the excess water is no longer being collected there. He thinks that the Pow Burn should be reinstated to its original route and this would help. Craig says he will get on the case and Mr Sloper is going to get in touch with SEPA.

Date of Next Meeting 18 February 2015 at 7pm